

**Forward Look—Earth Science and Applications from Space:
National Imperatives for the Next Decade and Beyond**

Richard Anthes

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

“Understanding the complex, changing planet on which we live, how it supports life, and how human activities affect its ability to do so in the future is one of the greatest intellectual challenges facing humanity. It is also one of the most important challenges for society as it seeks to achieve prosperity, health, and sustainability” (NRC, 2007, the “decadal survey” for Earth Sciences). My talk summarizes the 17 recommended missions of the decadal survey and illustrates how each helps realize the above vision--contributing to both basic scientific knowledge and important societal benefits.

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